



Hill 4-11 News



Fall Newsletter

October 7, 2011

Reunion 2011

Our gathering in Tampa was an unqualified success! In attendance were 119 adults and 4 grandchildren. The breakdown was 68 veterans, 49 wives & children, and 4 grandchildren. Bravo and Delta Companies each had 20 veteran attendees. Texas and Florida each had 11 veteran attendees. This was our best reunion attendance since the 2006 reunion in Branson, Missouri. See Page 2 for a list of the attendees.

Reunion Activities

On Friday, reunion attendees were free to enjoy the day as they pleased. Some visited nearby beaches, visited museums, or shopped the nearby malls. Hotel shuttle vans provided convenient transportation to nearby sites and restaurants.

Friday evening the movie "Don't Burn It" was screened for our attendees. D 3/1 veteran Mike Jarmus obtained permission from the producers to present the movie to our group. A Vietnamese production, it was submitted for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2010 Academy Awards. It has received numerous foreign film awards. It has had only limited screenings in the U.S. There are no plans for wide release in the U.S.

Mike Jarmus plays Sgt. Frederic Whitehurst circa 2005. Sgt. Whitehurst found the diary of Viet Cong medic Dang Thuy Tram in 1970 shortly after Tram's death. Whitehurst returned the diary to Tram's family 35 years later. It was published in Vietnam and later made into a movie. Based on actual events, this true story of healing and reconciliation occurred near Duc Pho, Quang Ngai Province.

Saturday morning we boarded buses to travel the short distance to MacDill Air Force Base Chapel. Dr. Kenyon Kugler presented a plaque to the association recognizing and honoring David Winder. David Winder was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal Of Honor for his actions while serving as a medic with A 3/1 on May 13, 1970. Dr. Kugler was battalion surgeon and David's medical commanding officer.

The Air Force Honor Guard presented former battalion commander Colonel George V. Ellis with a folded American Flag. Colonel Ellis and Hill 4-11 Association President Greg Smith placed the flag in an engraved case, honoring all the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry soldiers who died in Vietnam from 1967 to 1971.

Following the memorial service, we traveled to the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City for lunch featuring Spanish/Cuban recipes followed by a Flamenco dance floor show. After the excellent lunch and floor show we returned to the Doubletree Hotel.

We concluded our day with our evening banquet and music for dancing.



Hill 4-11

Association:

President—[Greg Smith](#)

Vice President—[Bob Frank](#)

Treasurer—[Dick Hill](#)

Scholarship Chairman—[Ed Grabowski](#)

2013 Reunion Host—[Frank Terry](#)

Newsletter Editors—[Dick Hill](#) and
[Charlie Wood](#)

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Reunion Attendees

The following veterans and guests came to Tampa:

Gene & Debbie Brown Bluffton, SC	Michael Burr Breaux Bridge, LA	Robert Cereceres Clint, TX
Sherman & Belinda Chisholm Phoenix, AZ	James & Carol Coe Gainesville, FL	Bill & Kathy Conklin Sarver, PA
Chuck Council Portland, OR	Louis Courchaine Clarkston, GA	Nolan & Ester Cross Ravenna, OH
Steve & Debbie Cunningham Forest Lake, MN	Mike & Sue Dankert Lansing, MI	Bar Delk Louisa, VA
Wayne Dillon & Marcia Springston Forest Hill, WV	Jerry & Linda Dinkel Great Bend, KS	Ron Drake Palm Harbor, FL
Ed Dyer Katy, TX	Dave & Kathy Eckberg Denton, TX	George & Ida Mae Ellis El Paso, TX
Bryan & Karen Ergang Wyoming, MI	Skip Fahel Humble, TX	Huey & Shirley Fautheree Georgetown, TX
Larry & Priscilla Finch Gonzales, TX	Bob Frank St. Michaels, MD	John & Judy Friess Sonora, TX
Bill Glesener Salida, CO	Ed Grabowski Rutland, VT	Mike & Kit Gray Stollings, WV
Angel & Sophia Gutierrez Tampa, FL	George & Sue Hardman West Point, UT	Bob & Nan Hartman Adel, IA
Glyn & Sherrie Haynie Cedar Park, TX	Dick & Debbie Hill Kent, OH	John & Sandra Hillier Harrison, AR
Hank Hoekstra Palmetto, FL	Paul & Nancy Hopson Adel, GA	Robert & Carolyn Hubert Cambridge Springs, PA
Greg & Lydia Jackson Houston, TX	Mike Jarmus Brick, NJ	Kenyon & Karen Kugler Breckenridge, CO
Royce & Claudette Lloyd Bristol, CT	Joe & Sue Monday Spring Hill, FL	Silas & Pam Morgan Tallahassee, FL
Fred & Eleanor Morris Bridgewater, MA	Richard & Brenda Morris Graceville, FL	Robert Mushtare & Marian Warren Edmond, OK
Ed & Nancy Newton Zanesville, OH	Tom Petty Yukon, OK	Victor Pina Phoenix, AZ
Joe & Madeline Polchlopek West Seneca, NY	Mickey Prebble & Victoria Stewart Mason, MI	Don & Nancy Prochaska David City, NE
Tim Rhoades Estero, FL	Sam & Carol Rice Toulon, IL	Doug Rompf Plano, IL
Louis Rowland Katy, TX	Jose & Maria Santiago Kissimmee, FL	Craig & Linda Smith Worland, WY
Greg & Denise Smith Columbia, IL	Wieslaw Szela Shirley, NY	Frank Terry Jackson, MS
James Thomas Olathe, KS	Sandy & Anne Tomasini Southport, NC	Jim & Joanne Vitale Williamstown, NJ
Richard Watson Hollywood, FL	Ron & Donna Werner Medford, WI	Charlie & Rose Wood Goldsboro, NC
Gary & Mary Ann Young Ozark, MO		

50/50 Raffle

During our Saturday evening activities, we held our 50/50 raffle. Proceeds from the raffle are used to pay incidental costs associated with putting on a reunion. This enables us to host the reunion without charging a base registration fee.

Winner of the raffle was Dan Barrett of Evansville, Indiana. Dan was not in attendance at Tampa, but plans to join us in 2013. Dan won \$950.00.

Thanks to all of you who purchased tickets. 50/50 raffle tickets for the 2013 reunion will be mailed in January 2013.

Future Reunions

Our 2013 reunion will be hosted by Frank and Mabel Terry (D 3/1) in Tunica, Mississippi. Tunica is a short distance south of Memphis, Tennessee and home to several casino hotels.

Our 2015 reunion will be hosted by Bill and Kathy Conklin (B 3/1), in the "Steel City" of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As reunion plans are developed they will be posted in future newsletters.

Reunion Comments

Good job and a lot of work by Mike, Dick, Greg, Charlie, and Col. Ellis, and others too. Many new faces. Speaking for Bob Hubert and our wives, what a great time. Thanks.

Fred Morris Bridgewater, MA D 3/1 67-68 Schofield Barracks.

Great reunion in Tampa! My first and I am glad that I attended. Please pass my comments to Greg Smith, Dick Hill, and Mike McQueen.

Joe Monday

This was my first Hill 411 reunion I have attended, I was a little hesitant to come in the past, now I am glad my wife and I went to this one. I did me a lot of good to meet the men that I depended on during this important part of my life. I was glad to see that we were all doing well at his stage of our lives. We all know that it was hard to talk about what we saw and experienced with those that were not in Nam. They just couldn't understand what we went thru or did not want to listen. It was a relief to be able to talk about those times again with men that knew what we lived thru together. Some of our stories are a little different as our memories fade but we got them pretty much right when we compared them with each other. It was important for us to do

that.

It was great to see our friends from that time, we remembered the ones that didn't return and their memory lives on through us. They will never be forgotten. I wish I had attended earlier meetings as some of us are no longer alive, we aren't getting any younger. Attending this reunion was good for my soul, I felt like I was home with family and friends. If you have been thinking of attending the next reunion, then do it for yourself and your loved ones.

You'll be glad that you did.

Sandy Tomasini (1970)

Newsletters Via Email

Many of you are receiving this newsletter via email. Transmitting the newsletters to you by email will result in a significant savings in printing and postage. To receive newsletters by email, you must be subscribed to the newsletter at the <http://hill4-11.org> website. If you are currently subscribed to the newsletter and if your email address or contact information has changed, you should go the <http://hill4-11.org> website and update your preferences. If you are not sure how to do this, send your email address to Charlie Wood at chaliwood@att.net, and he will make sure you are subscribed to receive the newsletter via email. It is also important that Treasurer Dick Hill has your current mailing address. Some association mailings, such as raffle tickets, etc., will still be sent via U.S. mail.

Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship

The scholarship committee has selected Kathryn Sykes to receive the Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship for the 2011/2012 academic year. Kathryn is the daughter of Life Member Eric Sykes. Kathryn is attending Otterbein University, a small school in Westerville, Ohio. Her major area of study is Design Technology specializing in Stage Management.

I am so very grateful for the scholarship you have provided me to further my education! I cannot entirely express my gratitude in words.

This past year has been a very educational experience. Learning to live on my own, and taking college classes was a wonderful experience. I am officially on the Dean's List for my freshman year, and I am planning on continuing to be on it for the next three years!

This past summer, I was given the opportunity to work with Otterbein Summer Theatre as Stage Manager and gained valuable experience in my chosen career path. The whole experience has been incredible and I look forward to continuing to study it.

This fall I am very excited to be taking a variety of classes: Dance (5 days a week), Computer Graphics, Scenic Painting, Costume History, and Chemistry. Also, I will be the Assistance Stage Manager on the fall play, and Stage Manager on others. In addition, I will be doing work study with my Production Manager to gain even more experience.

Once again, I can't say thank you enough for providing me with the tools to further my education. I cannot wait to go out in the world and shine my light, and you will have helped me to do so-and most importantly to help others as I have been so graciously helped.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Sykes



Kathryn Sykes was selected to receive the Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship for the 2011-2012 academic year. This was her second award of the scholarship.

High school seniors and college students who wish apply for a Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship should contact committee chairman Ed Grabowski at 95 Meadows St., Rutland, VT 05701-4321, or email him at egabby95@comcast.net. Also, scholarship applications may be obtained via the <http://hill4-11.org> website.



New Member Drive

In a short time, Greg Smith and Dick Hill will be sitting down to send out holiday greetings. If there is someone on your Christmas card list you served with in Vietnam, tell them about our association. Send their name and address to Dick Hill at Ffdh749@aol.com so he can add them to our mailing list.

Reunion Pictures

Colonel George V. Ellis, first Commanding Officer of Fire-base 4-11, addresses the membership (Photo by Dick Hill)



Mike McQueen, reunion host, briefs the members on planned daily activities (Photo by Dick Hill)



Reunion Pictures



Ed Grabowski, scholarship chairman, brings us up to date on scholarships awarded and the status of the fund (Photo by Dick Hill)



Frank Terry, 2013 reunion host, invites the members to Tunica, Mississippi (Photo by Dick Hill)

Reunion Pictures

Dr. Kenyon Kugler, former battalion surgeon, with the plaque honoring David Winder who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor (Photo by Dick Hill)



Air Force Honor Guard presents the American Flag to Colonel George V. Ellis (Photo by Dick Hill)



Reunion Pictures



Colonel Ellis and Association President Greg Smith placed the flag in a special display case to be exhibited at future reunions (Photo by Dick Hill)



American Flag and special display case honoring our fallen comrades from the 3rd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment during the Vietnam War (Photo by Wieslaw Szela)

Gold Star Sister Attends Reunion

Gloria's brother was Juan Manuel Ramos who was KIA on Hill 4-11 on July 14, 1969 while serving with Alpha company. We hope more family members of Hill 4-11 casualties will chose to join us in the future.



Gloria Ramos, Gold Star Sister of Juan Manuel Ramos (Photo by Dick Hill)

Flamenco Dancers at the Columbia Restaurant



(Photos by Wieslaw Szela)

From:

Dick Hill
Treasurer
Hill 4-11 Association
630 Woodside Drive
Kent, OH 44240-2664

WE'RE ON THE WEB!**[HTTP://HILL4-11.ORG](http://hill4-11.org)**

**To:**

Hill 4-11 Association — Dues Payment Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Vietnam Unit: _____

Dates of Vietnam Service: _____

Annual Hill 4-11 Dues \$25.00 or Lifetime Membership \$150.00

\$ _____

Leslie J. Stottle Memorial Scholarship Contribution

John Walker Memorial Fund Contribution

____ Copies of Hill 4-11 History @ \$17.50 Each

Total \$

Make checks payable to Hill 4-11 Association and mail to:

Dick Hill
Treasurer
Hill 4-11 Association
630 Woodside Drive
Kent, OH 44240-2664